

MYP Mathematics at VSA

General Background

Structure

Students take 5 (50 minute) lessons of maths per week in Years 6 to 10. In Years 6 to 8, students are taught within their homeroom classes. In Years 9 and 10 students are grouped according to ability, with the more able students following the Extended Maths course and the less able following the Standard Maths course.

Briefly, the Extended/Standard maths “divide” has been constructed in a similar fashion to the HL/SL divide in the Diploma Programme. That is, the Standard Course is a subset of the Extended Course. The Extended course goes a little further, deeper and faster. We line our units up together (with the same unit question and similar resources at our disposal), and assessments are taken at the same time. As can be seen, the Extended assessments are generally more challenging than the Standard ones, but they are structurally very similar.

For this year’s cohort we have three Extended Maths groups and two Standard Maths groups.

We introduced the Extended/Standard divide nearly two years ago, so this is the first cohort to present work in the two levels (previously the whole school was submitted for Standard Mathematics, despite comments from moderators indicating that much of the material we were exposing students to could be categorized as Extended).

The Sample for Extended Maths

At the start of the school year we were informed that we would have to submit 4 (rather than the previous 8). At the beginning of the year, we actually chose six students who we would track throughout the year. Nominally these were two weak, two average and two strong students. As things turned out, it wasn’t quite as clear-cut as this.

Nevertheless, here are the students:

	Student	Note
Strong	Jessi LIU	Has been consistently strong all year
Average	Justin TANG	
Average	Sharon Lau	Is definitely at the weaker end of average but has shown recent improvement
Weak	Jonathan POON	Someone who we felt should have done better

A final note – in our efforts to create a paperless environment, teachers standardized scanned copies of scripts. Depending on the programme the moderator uses, some annotations made on the scanned scripts may not be easily viewable. Our MYP Coordinator believes this isn’t an issue – we have provided solutions, pre- and post- standardization grades, task-specific clarifications and we have completed a Form 3.1 for each student. Between all these documents, the moderator should be able to moderate our grades.